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SENATOR PREISTER: ...and to not become a further cost, through other tax revenues, by going into care centers and other more expensive places where they would then be living. With that, I support the bill, wish that it went further than it does in making more allowances to the elderly, but certainly am supportive of it and also supporting the committee amendments that we've already adopted. With that, I thank you and conclude.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Madam President and members. I don't want to go into the great attributes of the homestead exemption program, simply to say that I do support Senator Landis' bill or the committee's bill, as we should view it. But also I was interested, I proposed my own legislation this year. When 1114 goes into effect and the levy limits go into effect, the state cost of administering the homestead exemption program will decrease I believe \$6 million approximately, give or take. My intent was to keep that money that the state of Nebraska is presently directing to the homestead exemption program, going in that direction. This bill does that. I appreciate the CPI aspect of the bill. I believe this is good public policy. I certainly echo all the comments made by Senator Preister and others. This is good public policy, I'd urge the body to adopt it. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Before our next speaker, Senator Wehrbein has, as his guests this morning in the north balcony, 100 senior high students from Nebraska City Public and Lourdes Catholic High Schools with their teachers. And their sponsor today is the Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee of Nebraska City. Would you all please stand and be recognized and welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I'm glad we're doing this and I plan to be supportive of the bill. I just wanted to mention, before we pass, that I think we continue to overlook and skew our law by omitting another important group of property taxpayers who are...often times have